

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 22 No. 12

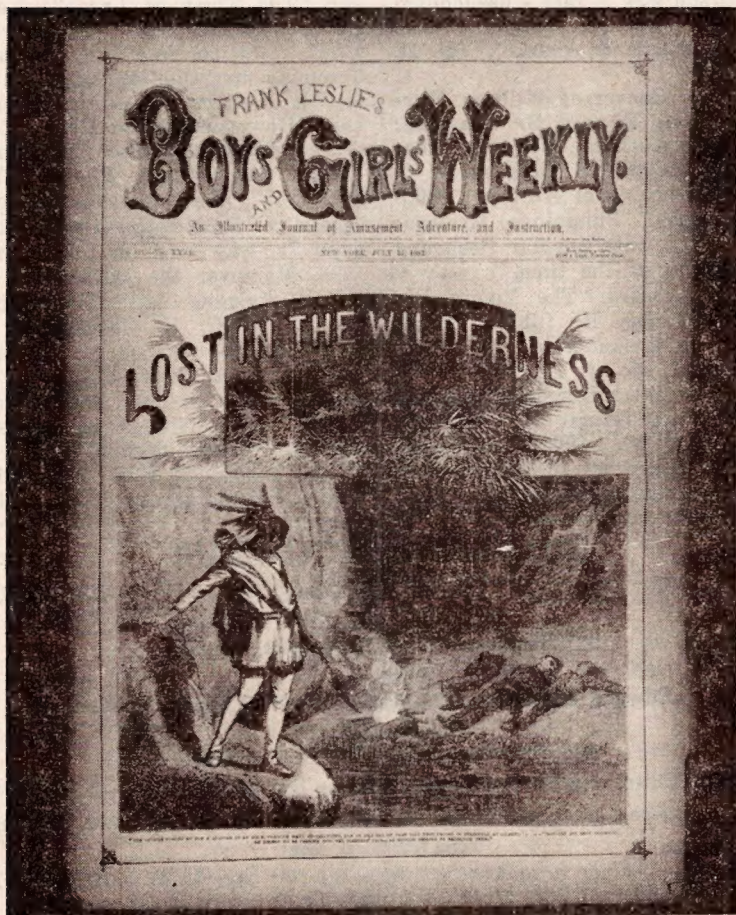
December 15, 1954

Whole No. 267

## The Pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis

by Denis R. Rogers

(Continued)



Cover of Boys and Girls Weekly #821, July 15, 1882, featuring "Lost in the Wilderness" by Lieut. R. H. Jayne, one of Edward S. Ellis' many pseudonyms.



**Robin Playfellow:** "The Sacred Mountain or A Jaunt Through Java" by Robin Playfellow, commencing in Vol. II, No. 11 (9/11/1886) of "The Dawn of Day", a story paper published by William T. Ockford in Detroit, was republished in cloth book form by A. L. Burt of New York in 1889 under the title: "A Jaunt Through Java. The Story of a Journey to the Sacred Mountain by Two American Boys" by Edward S. Ellis.

### Part 2—Disproven Pseudonyms.

**Major Lewis W. Carson:** Sometimes attributed to Edward S. Ellis, Professor Johannsen proved by actual comparison of texts that Major Lewis W. Carson was in fact a pseudonym of Albert W. Aiken. (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II, P. 50).

**Frank H. Converse; William Murray Graydon; Edward S. Van Zile:** These three authors, given as pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis by W. C. Miller ("Dime Novel Authors: 1860-1890": Ralph F. Cummings: Grafton: Mass.: 1933), were popular flesh and blood writers of the time.

**Ad. H. Gibson:** "The Young Defenders" by Ad. H. Gibson, which appeared as a sketch in "The Holiday" (Vol. 3, No. 4, 1/17/1891) was reprinted in "Old Ironsides" by Edward S. Ellis (Hurst & Company: New York: 10/7/1903). However, "Poets of America" (1890) gives a short biography of this author, show-

ing him as born in Bureau County, Illinois and living in Star Valley, Kansas. It goes on to say: "at an early age Mr. Gibson acted as local reporter for home papers, and his paragraphs always received commendation from the editors. He has taught school both in Kansas and among the Indians. This young writer has written numerous poems of merit, and aspires more especially to become eminent as a novelist". It seems certain, therefore, that Ad. H. Gibson was a real person and not a pen name of Edward S. Ellis.

**George H. Coomer:** Two sketches by this author: "An Adventure in Uruguay" (Vol. 2, No. 4: 8/5/1890) and "The Tiger at Large" (Vol. 2, No. 7, 8/26/1890); in "The Boy's Holiday" were reprinted by Hurst & Company in "Old Ironsides", a collection of short stories by Edward S. Ellis. However George Henry Coomer, according to James M. Arnold's "Vital Records of Rhode Island: 1636-1850" (Narragansett Publishing Company: Providence: 1894), Vol. 6, page 71, was born on December 13, 1825. Moreover the Library of Congress catalogue lists "Miscellaneous Poems" by G. H. Coomer as published by the author at Boston in 1851. At that time Ellis was only eleven years of age and so could hardly have afforded to publish a book of his own poems! To the best of my knowledge Ellis' first printed works did not appear before 1857. I

## DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Vol. 22 No. 12

December 15, 1954

Whole No. 267

Published Monthly at

821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by

Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Assistant Editor for Photography—Charles Duprez, Bellerose, L. I., N. Y.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.



am satisfied on the evidence that Coomer was a real author and certain that, even if a pseudonym, Coomer could not have belonged to Ellis.

**Adelbert Gumore:** "An Adventure with Tramps" by Adelbert Gumore, Galesburg, Ill. ("The Holiday": Vol. III. No. 23: 5/30/1891) was reprinted in Edward S. Ellis' "Old Ironsides". However the editorial to Vol. III: No. 19 (5/2/1891) of "The Holiday", in announcing the winners of prizes in a competition for the best sketch submitted by readers, says:—"Second Prize: "An Adventure with Tramps" by Adelbert Gumore, 508 E. Berrien Street, Galesburg, Ill. Master Adelbert, as certified by his father, is about the same age as the winner of the first prize (John McMahon: 1, Madison Street, New York City—sixteen years of age)."

**Lieut. Keene, U. S. A.:** I am told that this pen name has been attributed to Ellis. In fact it belonged to St. George Rathbone, who listed it amongst others in letters to George French in July 1934 ("The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II. Page 231: Footnote 1).

**Frank L. Stanton:** "The Oak's Secret," a sketch in Vol. III: No. 23: 5/30/1891: of "The Holiday", over the name: Frank L. Stanton in "Atlanta Constitution" was reprinted in "Old Ironsides" by Edward S. Ellis. Frank L. Stanton (1857-1927) was a very well known journalist and poet, on the staff of the "Atlanta Constitution".

**Lieut. Alfred B. Thorne:** Miller gives this as a pen name of Edward S. Ellis, but Professor Johannsen has proved by comparing texts that the pseudonym belonged to Albert W. Aiken. (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II. Page 272).

### Part 3—Probable Pseudonyms

**P. T. Barnum:** No. 293 of Street & Smith's Medal Library, published in January 1905, was "My Plucky Boy Tom or Searching for Curiosities for My Show" by P. T. Barnum, compiled by Edward S. Ellis.

I am told by Mr. R. Toole Statt of London, who has been engaged on a

bibliography of the circus for many years, that there are at least 300 to 400 titles by Barnum, many of them the same book under a different title. Of these 300 to 400 editions, only four are fiction, the rest being autobiographical or lectures or "success" books and such like. From this it is clear that Ellis could not have written all the Barnum books. It is also clear, however, from a number of his own books that Ellis was personally acquainted with the great showman and so it is quite likely that he ghosted one or more of the four juveniles known to have been credited to Barnum. However M. R. Werner, in his biography of P. T. Barnum, stated that the Circus Press Agent (who was Morris H. Warner at that time) wrote under his employer's name such stories as "Lion Jack", "Jack in the Jungle" and "Dick Broadhead". Consequently it could be that "My Plucky Boy Tom" was Ellis' sole ghosting venture on Barnum's behalf. Certainly I think that it can be taken as quite definite Ellis had a large hand in that story, whether as collaborator or ghost writer.

**Captain Latham T. Carleton:** "A Young Hero" by Captain Latham T. Carleton ("The Boy's Holiday": Vol. I. No. 7: 2/25/1890) was reprinted in "The Jungle Fugitives" by Edward S. Ellis (Hurst & Company: New York: 8/8/1903).

**Gerald A. Gwynne and Oscar A. Gwynne:** The Library of Congress has quoted Gerald A. Gwynne as an Ellis pen name, which has been the subject of previous research. Oscar A. Gwynne and Oswald A. Gwynne were ascribed to Ellis by Gustav Davidson ("Little Known Pseudonyms of 19th Century American Authors": Publishers' Weekly: 6/15/1940: Pages 2292/2295). Since Oswald A. Gwynne is a proven pseudonym of Ellis and since Mr. Davidson advises me that, while his memory is hazy after so many years, he feels sure that he verified both these names by reference to the original applications for copyright at the Library of Congress, it seems fair to assume that Gerald A. Gwynne and Oscar A. Gwynne are



variations of Oswald A. Gwynne, which were used by Ellis at one time or another. I fully expect definite proof to come to light in due course.

**Captain Emerson Rodman:** In "The House of Beadle & Adams" (Vol. II. Page 244) Professor Johannsen points out that a comparison of "Mad Anthony's Scouts or The Rangers of Kentucky" by Emerson Rodman (Starr's American Novels No. 49: 10/4/1870) with "The River Rifles or The Fate of the Flatboat" by Billex Muller (Starr's American Novels No. 34: 3/1/1870) reveals, in spite of different plots, entire pages identical and comes to the conclusion: "no one other than the original author would have dared repeat entire chapters from another book issued by the same publishers less than a year before."

Perhaps it should be noted that the original editions of these stories may well have been Irwin's American Novels No. 14 ("The Kentucky Rangers") on 6/13/1866 and No. 37 ("The Hunters of the Ohio") in December 1867. However although if true this reverses the order of publication and increases the time between publication dates to around eighteen instead of under twelve months, I do not think that Professor Johannsen's conclusions are affected at all.

Therefore, since Billex Muller was an Ellis pseudonym, Emerson Rodman was also an Ellis pen name.

**Boynton K. Belknap M. D.:** (Source: "House of Beadles & Adams" Vol. II p. 33) Professor Johannsen has proved by comparison of texts that Boynton K. Belknap and Emerson Rodman were credited with different editions of the same story. Therefore, since Emerson Rodman was a pen name of Edward S. Ellis, Boynton K. Belknap, M. D., must also have belonged to him.

**Boynton Randolph M. D.:** "The Flower of the Forest. A Tale of the Backwoods" by Boynton Randolph M. D., was published about December 1866 as No. 19 of The Fireside Series (American News Company: New York). In a bound volume of Frank Starr's American Novels the writer has a copy of The American Novel

Publishing Company's edition of "Lew Whetzel the Scout or The Captives of the Wilderness" by Boynton Belknap M. D., author of "The Flower of the Forest". This is undoubtedly a remainder item, reissued with Frank Starr wrappers as No. 16 of the New series—the wrapper was of course removed for binding—and originally No. 47 of the American Novels, which was announced for issue on 11/12/1868. I think it is fair to assume that "The Flower of the Forest" referred to on the title page was that issued just under two years previously as No. 19 of the American News Company's Fireside Series. The combination of Boynton, of Randolph, and of M.D., strengthens the case for this assumption, having regard to Ellis' use of all three for other pen names (i.e., Randolph twice, Boynton at least once, probably twice, and M.D. twice). In consequence, Boynton Belknap M.D., being an Ellis pseudonym, Boynton Randolph M.D., is also an Ellis nom de plume.

**A U. S. Detective:** In several stories published in Elverson's "Saturday Night" in 1880 the Ellis pseudonym: E. A. St. Mox had added: "—A. U. S. Detective" and in some "A U. S. Detective" was used on its own. (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II. Page 253).

#### Part 4—Possible Pseudonyms

The following pseudonyms, which have been "proved" by reference to reprints in two cloth bound books of short stories by Edward S. Ellis ("Old Ironsides, the Hero of Tripoli and 1812 and Other Tales of Adventure on Sea and Land" and "The Jungle Fugitives: A Tale of Life and Adventure in India, including also many stories of American Adventure, Enterprise and Daring"), which Hurst & Coy. of New York published in 1903, must be regarded as suspect, since it is evident (see the references in part 2 above to George H. Coomer, Ad. H. Gibson, Adelbert Gumore and Frank L. Stanton) that the Hurst editors were careless when choosing the sketches for reprint from "The Boy's Holiday" (Later "The Holiday").



However, until contrary proof is forthcoming, I propose to accept the eleven names in question as belonging to Ellis.

(i) Reprinted in "Old Ironsides".

**William H. Budd:** "A Memorable Day" from Vol. 2. No. 4. 8/5/1890

**George R. Bushnell:** "The Buccaneers" from Vol. 2. No. 13. 10/7/1890.

**Rev. T. De Haven:** "The Blue Swallow Tail" from Vol. 2. No. 6. 8/19/1890.

**Gerald G. Honoye:** "A Thrilling Ride on Snow Shoes" from Vol. 2, No. 13.

**T. R. Hulme:** "The Run of Vulcan" from Vol. 2. No. 9. 9/9/1890.

**Frank D. McSpedon:** "A Young Hero" from Vol. 2. No. 12. 9/30/1890

**Percy B. Stafford:** "Overreached" from Vol. 2. No. 4. 8/5/1890.

**R. G. Williams:** "The Butt of the School" from Vol. 2. No. 7. 8/26/1890.

(ii) Reprinted in "The Jungle Fugitives"

**Mattie M. Boteler:** "How We Boys Went Wild-Westing" from Vol. 2. No. 13.

**William J. Havens:** "Who Shall Explain It?" from Vol. 2. No. 5. 8/12/1890.

**Capt. Charles M. Kemp:** "An Unpleasant Companion" from Vol. 1. No. 21. 6/3/1890.

**Frank D. McSpedon:** "A Stirring Incident" from Vol. 1. No. 25. 7/1/1890 and "The Writing Found in a Bottle" from Vol. 2. No. 7. 8/26/1890.

**Percy B. Stafford:** "Overreached" from Vol. 2. No. 4. 8/5/1890.

Beadle's Dime Tales, Traditions and Romance of Border and Revolutionary times, issued between September 1863 and August 1864, were all edited by Edward S. Ellis and many of the sketches (there were four in each of the twelve numbers, except for two, which contained five) were probably also written by Ellis.

Parts of at least twenty-one of the sketches (each sketch covered a number of incidents more or less related by the central theme of the sketch)

were reprinted between 2/23/1884 and 8/7/1886 in "The Golden Argosy" under the following five by-lines:—

**Russell Cummings:** Four items from Dime Tales Nos. 2, 9 and 11, the first appearing in Vol. 2. No. 18 (4/5/1884) and the last in Vol. 2. No. 52 (11/29/1884).

**Clark W. Goldthwait:** One item from Dime Tales No. 10 in Vol. 2. No. 12 (2/23/1884).

**John J. Mackart:** One item from Dime Tales No. 10 in Vol. 4. No. 19 (4/10/1886).

**Ralph Morgan:** Fourteen items from Dime Tales Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12, the first appearing in Vol. 2. No. 30 (6/28/1884) and the last in Vol. 4. No. 36 (8/8/1886).

**Leonard Morton:** One item from Dime Tales No. 4 in Vol. 2. No. 15 (3/15/1884).

**Captain Marcy Hunter, U. S. A.:** On a number of Ellis checklists I have found novels published by Robert M. De Witt under this name. As the Library of Congress included Marcy Hunter in a list of Ellis pseudonyms sent to a friend of mine, I am inclined to take the Ellis ownership seriously. Miller so attributes it.

**Colonel Tom Travis:** This name, used for at least three of Ornum's Ten Cent Popular Novels, has been put forward from a number of sources as a pseudonym of Edward S. Ellis. Up to the time of writing I have not found a shred of evidence for or against.

Part 5—Improbable Pseudonyms

**Mahlon A. Brown:** Professor Johannsen gives this as a doubtful pen name of Edward S. Ellis ("The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II: Page 321) but, since he investigated only names used in Beadle & Adams' publications, he did no checking on it. According to William J. Burke and Will D. Howe ("American Authors and Books, 1640-1940", Page 98, The Grammercy Publishing Co., New York, 1943) Mahlon A. Brown was a pseudonym of William Henry Peck. Miller also credits this name to Peck, but it may have been that Messrs.



Burke and Howe used Miller as their source of information. Anyway as yet no firm evidence has come my way.

**L. Augustus Jones:** Some editions of Munro's Ten Cent Novels No. 56 contain a full page advertisement for No. 58: "Mexican Joe" by Latham C. Carleton, but No. 58 appeared as "Mexican Joe" by L. Augustus Jones.

Jay Monagan's "The Great Rascal" (Little Brown: Boston: 1952) lists L. Augustus Jones amongst the pen names of E. Z. C. Judson. Writing from memory, his notes not being available, Mr. Monagan advises me that he suspected L. Augustus Jones to be Judson on account of similarity of published titles.

George Waldo Browne included L. Augustus Jones amongst the pseudonyms of Arthur L. Meserve (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams": Vol. II: Page 198).

Munro's "Fireside Companion" (Vol. VI: 9/19/1870) says that: "L. Augustus Jones, young writer, is dead." Professor Johannsen thinks that L. Augustus Jones must have been a real person: "for even the story papers would hardly call a man dead, if still living. Furthermore his (L. Augustus Jones') stories originally appeared in the 1860s". (Source: Letter to the writer of this article, dated 2-27-1953).

The evidence, while not conclusive, strongly supports the theory that L. Augustus Jones was a live author. Mr. Monagan suggests that it might be possible to establish the reality of Jones by seeing if he was in the City Directory prior to his alleged death and absent from the following Directory. I would like to follow this excellent piece of advice but, alas, I don't know which city!

**Louis Legrand M.D.:** In "The House of Beadle & Adams" (Vol. II: Page 179) Professor Johannsen says that the only suggestions as to the true name of "Louis Legrand" he found were in Miller's "Dime Novel Authors" and in a list of Beadle authors, obtained from Dr. O'Brien, where Edward S. Ellis and O. J. Victor are given respectively. He next points

out that since, by Ellis' own account, he was unknown to the firm before he sent the manuscript of "Seth Jones" to Beadle in the summer of 1860, Ellis could hardly have been the editor of the "Dime Dialogues" published in 1859. Mr. Johannsen goes on to show a drawback to the theory that Victor wrote under the name, finally suggesting that "Louis Legrand" may have been a joint pen name of Mr. and Mrs. Victor. I have no fresh evidence to put forward, but feel that Ellis can be ruled out, whoever actually wrote under that nom de plume.

**"One Who Slept on the Prairies":** Munro's Ten Cent Novels No. 146—"Hunters and Redskins" (March 1869) by "One Who Slept on the Prairies"—is shown in the March publications sections of the American Catalogue for 1869 as by Latham C. Carleton. This is pretty slim evidence and the name doesn't sound like an Ellis pseudonym, for I have never heard that he used phrases for pen names. The Beadle Frontier Series reprint of this story: No. 94: gives Captain Frederick Whittaker as the author but, needless to say, no reliance can be placed on the authors' names used by Ivers in that series.

**"An Old Hunter":** Beadle's Frontier Series No. 95: "Panther Jack. A Story of Wild Life in the Woods" by Capt. L. C. Carleton is a reprint of Munro's Ten Cent Novels No. 98 by "An Old Hunter". Any evidence based on Ivers' "Beadle's Frontier Series" must be suspect and I believe that "An Old Hunter" was in fact a pen name of E. Z. C. Judson. However I should like to find definite proof before dismissing Edward S. Ellis from the case.

(To be continued)

---

Have for sale 4 bound volumes Golden Argosy, \$6.00 each; 12 volumes Youth's Companion (bound) \$5 each. 2 Vols. Oliver Optic's Magazine (bound) \$5.00 each. Bound volume American Boy, \$5.00. All by famous Juvenile authors.

H. Cook

431 N. Braddock St., Winchester, Va.



# NEWSY NEWS

## Ralph F. Cummings

Joseph Parks, publisher of The Collectors Miscellany, died this last August, the date I don't know, but his daughter wrote me that he had been sickly a long time. We are all going to miss both Joe and The Collectors Miscellany. His daughter says the last number of The Collectors Miscellany was No. 22. Way back in the early '20s, Joe brought out the first number of Vanity Fair, and it ended with Vol. 3, No. 32. May and June 1927, when it started as No. 1 of The Collectors Miscellany, April 1928. Since that time he had been running the little magazine in various series from the 1st series up. Mr. Birkbeck ran it a while through the last war, if I'm not mistaken, then Joe ran it again, up to No. 22. He was a great authority on the old time penny bloods and dreadfuls, and had a fine collection of them. He knew many of the old boys that some of us knew way back in the old days, that had collections such as Barry Ono, Herdman, Steele, Mulhall, Wearing, Wilson, Medcraft and a number of others. We are all going to miss Joe. You know, some of us don't miss a fine friend until he's gone, or realize how sick he might be until it is too late.

# JUST PUBLISHED

HUGH ROY CULLEN, by Ed Kilman and Theon Wright, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. \$4.00. This is a story of American opportunity, a biography of one of the most unusual men of our times, Texas oil millionaire, great philanthropist, his life in Texas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory. Reads like many a western dime novel. Available at all bookstores, or from Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

MERRIWELL STORIES  
in Tip Top Weekly  
BOUGHT AND SOLD  
J. P. GUINON  
2314 Izard St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

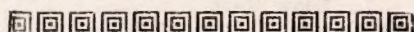
# (Advertisements)

## EXCHANGES COLUMN

Wanted: Blue and Gray #30. Wide Awake Wk. #13 28 30. Pluck and Luck #342. Lou Kohrt, 3749 Robinswood St., Houston 5, Texas.

For Sale: Set of Westbrook Jesse James and other outlaw stories. Copies "The Bullseye," etc. George Sahr, 7025 31st Ave., Kenosha, Wis.

I have for sale Pluck and Luck, James Boys Weekly, Wild West Wky, N. Y. Detective Library, Diamond Dick Weekly, Frank Reade Weekly, Log Cabin Library, Secret Service, Young Broadbrim Weekly, Buffalo Bill Stories, Nick Carter, Rough Rider Weekly, Beadles Boys Library, Frank Reade Library, Brave & Bold, Beadles Dime Library, Wide Awake Weekly, Wide Awake Library, etc. Numbers and prices on request. Roy E. Morris, 901 East Michigan Ave., Orlando, Florida.



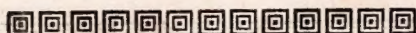
# FOR SALE

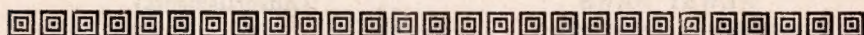
- 419 Happy Days  
(Some good runs)
- 776 Golden Days  
(First 9 volumes bound)
- 81 Golden Hours
- 54 Golden Argosy
- 25 Good News
- 156 Youths Companion  
(Three bound volumes)

\$125.00 for the lot

# ERNEST METLER

Box 145  
TIVOLI, N. Y.





## HOW ABOUT A CHRISTMAS OR BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO SOMEONE

Currier & Ives, by F. A. Cunningham, 1950 -----	\$2.00
History of Fireworks, by Alan St. H. Brock, 1949, well-illustr., 1st Ed. -	5.00
Gold Rush Album, by Jos. H. Jackson, 1949, 1st Ed., over 250 illust. ---	7.00
(Early) American Glass, by Katherine M. McClinton, 1950, 1st Ed. and well illustrated -----	1.25
(Early) American Firearms, by Rob't Abels, 1st Ed., 1950, well illust. --	1.25
(Early) American Silver, by Kathryn C. Buhler, 1st Ed. 1950. Well illus.	1.25
My 50 Years in Baseball, by Edw. G. Barrow, 1951, illustrated -----	2.00
My 66 Years in the Big Leagues, by Connie Mack -----	1.25
Baseball Personalities, by Jimmy Powers, 1949, well illustrated -----	2.00
British Railways, by Arthur Elton, 1947, well illustrated -----	1.25
British Boxing, by Denzil Batchelor, 1948, well illustrated -----	1.25
Hey There, Sucker! by Jack Dadswell, 1946, illust. Fine Circus and Show Book. -----	3.00
Jesse James Was My Neighbor, by Homer Croy, 1949 -----	3.50
Sports Photo Album, by Wm. Jacobellis, 1915 -----	2.00

(All the above books are brand new and many contain  
colored prints.)

### ALSO

Early American Colored prints of Fire Engines, Locomotives, Automobiles,  
Trolley Cars and Carriages

All in color, size 8½x5½. Eight prints in each set. Price \$2.00, or all 5 sets  
for ----- \$9.00

(Everything shipped postpaid)

## RALPH F. CUMMINGS

Fisherville,

Massachusetts

